

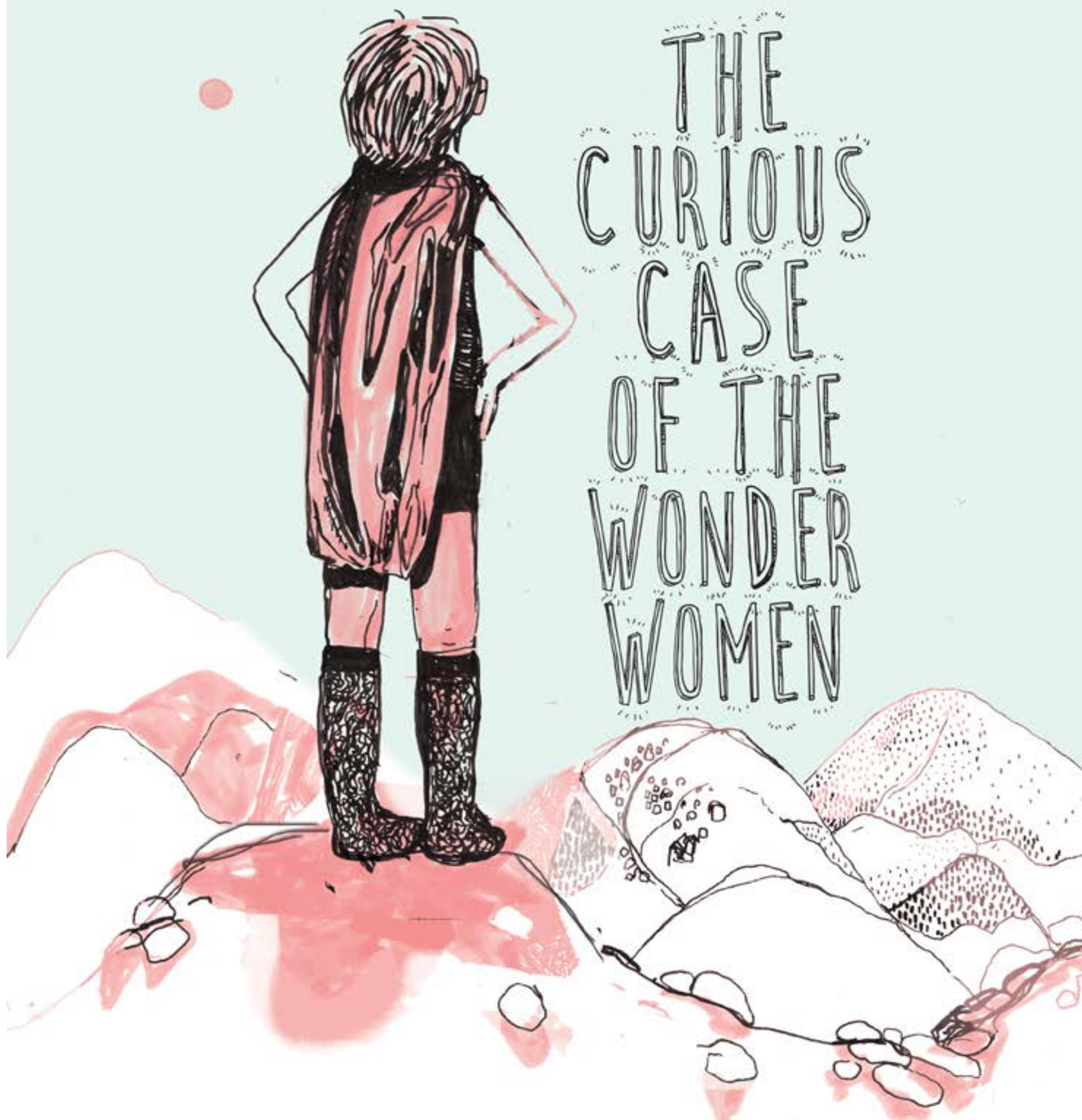
the otherpress

The Douglas College Newspaper Since 1976

Volume 45

October 2, 2018

Issue 5





Beating the burnout

Bex Peterson
Editor-in-Chief

Burnout is an oft-discussed topic in creative circles these days, especially amongst content creators and freelancers. It seems to be a millennial (and recently, Gen Z) pandemic—juggling full or part-time work with your inevitable necessary side hustles to make ends meet, never mind balancing all this with an active social life and much-needed downtime, can't be healthy for anyone's physical or mental state. Overworked students are extremely prone to this as well. Who hasn't had a mid-semester meltdown after realizing you've taken on two courses too many and

are now facing down a midterm you're far from prepared for?

I'm honestly the last person to give anyone advice about avoiding burnout. When I moved out at 19 years old I took on three part-time jobs, one of them an overnight shift, while still trying to keep up with school. This was a really, really bad idea that I do not recommend anyone try emulating—on one occasion I passed out in the washroom while putting on makeup and woke up five minutes later on the floor, and at another point ended up sleeping three hours into one of my day shifts. I still struggle to find a balance between work and rest, though I've become far more cognizant of my limits as a human being; even so, at the time of writing this, I'm

currently operating on two and a half hours of sleep. As the memes might say, "It really do be like that sometimes."

Recognizing limits and being firm with them is, I think, the best way to avoid running yourself into the ground. There are always going to be demands on your time, whether it be work, school, family, or friends. You need to realistically assess what your limits are; maybe you just can't take five classes in a semester and might have to take a little longer to graduate, and that's fine. Maybe you can't take on extra responsibilities at work—maybe you can't drive out to your friend's place every week because you really need a night off. It may feel selfish at first saying "no" to things, especially if you're someone who's used to

answering with a "yes". However, people will appreciate having your full attention and abilities when it's important, instead of getting half of you all the time (or at least, they should; people who resent you for putting boundaries on your time are not people you want to be giving your time to anyway).

It's your job to take care of yourself, so don't slack off—or do, if that's what you need!

Until next issue,

Bex Peterson

Bex Peterson

the otherpress

Room 1020 - 700 Royal Ave.
Douglas College
New Westminster, BC, V3L 5B2
604-525-3542

Bex Peterson
Editor-in-Chief
✉ editor@theotherpress.ca

James Moore
Layout Manager
✉ layout@theotherpress.ca

Katie Czenczek
News Editor
✉ news@theotherpress.ca

Jessica Berget
Opinions Editor
✉ opinions@theotherpress.ca

Greg Waldock
Web Editor
✉ webeditor@theotherpress.ca

🏠 theotherpress.ca
✉ editor@theotherpress.ca
📺 /theotherpress
f/douglasotherpress

Caroline Ho
Assistant Editor
✉ assistant@theotherpress.ca

Lauren Kelly
Graphics Manager
✉ graphics@theotherpress.ca

Sonam Kaloti
Arts Editor
✉ arts@theotherpress.ca

Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor
✉ lifeandstyle@theotherpress.ca

Klara Woldenga
Entertainment Editor
✉ humour@theotherpress.ca

Angela Ho
Business Manager

Jacey Gibb
Distribution Manager

Meghan Lin
Production Assistant

Cara Seccafien
Illustrator

Tania Arora
Staff Reporter

Naomi Ambrose, Roshni Riar
Staff Writers

Billy Bui
Staff Photographer

Jerrison Oracion
Senior Columnist

**C J Sommerfeld, Isabelle Orr,
Janis McMath, Karen Segal, Peter Tran**
Contributors

Cover & Feature Illustrations Cara Seccafien
Cover design Lauren Kelly

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.

- Anvil Office Tower officially hosts Douglas College classes
 - SFSS impeaches president
 - ‘SHIFT’ at Douglas
- ...and more!

Open for business

› Anvil Office Tower officially hosts Douglas College classes



Katie Czenczek
 News Editor

Finally, the Anvil Office Tower expansion is here for Douglas College students studying accounting, business, and finance. The Anvil Office Tower was expected to open during the first week of classes this semester but was pushed to September 10 due to construction. Only two blocks away from Douglas College’s New Westminster campus, students have four floors dedicated to their studies. Each floor features an open-concept seating area and classrooms, amounting to 21 classrooms total. The newly-opened location is expected to accommodate over 1,600 more students, which according to a press release

is much-needed for the College, whose growth has increased by 17 percent over the past 10 years. In the same press release Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, said that “almost 80 percent of job openings in the next 10 years will require post-secondary education, and we expect over half a million openings in the mainland and southwest region of BC alone. This space increases access to post-secondary education and helps students get the quality education needed to graduate and thrive in our growing economy.” As it currently stands, 24,000 students are educated at Douglas College yearly. These students are able to have the most choice in their education compared to

other BC colleges because the school has the largest number of degree and post-degree programs. The lease agreement for the Anvil Office Tower will cost Douglas College \$8.9 million over 10 years. According to the same press release, “The cost of the lease is being covered by the College’s budget surplus and from revenue generated by its programs.” The floors dedicated to the College are levels six to nine and feature wide windows overlooking the Fraser River. In an interview with the *Other Press*, Jasmine Jennens, a second-year Criminology student at Douglas College, said that she loved the expansion but wished that it wasn’t just finance and business courses offered at the new facility. “I really like it. It’s a much nicer

environment with the water and the windows,” she said. “The other campuses are so closed-in and outdated. My only suggestion is to add classes from other programs in here—like Criminology.” Another student at Douglas College who’s currently studying Business Administration, Jeffrey Banggayan, said in the press release that what he particularly enjoys about the new campus space are the sitting areas. “The Douglas College Anvil Office Tower has added a lot of student-focused study and collaboration space, which is great,” Banggayan said. “I really appreciate having such accessible and modern facilities at my fingertips for the remainder of my program.”



Photos by Billy Bui

SFSS impeaches president

› Inside the tumultuous Annual General Meeting

Bex Peterson
Editor-in-Chief

Last Monday, September 24, the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) impeached president Jaskarn Singh Randhawa at their AGM. This decision came at the recommendation of the SFSS Board of Directors in a document that outlined, among many other concerns, Randhawa's lack of transparency with his use of SFSS funds; his failure to address sexual harassment allegations; general aggressive behaviour including an incident where he allegedly physically assaulted SFSS Board member Kia Mirsalehi; and leaking confidential information to the SFU newspaper, *The Peak*, including sensitive information about the aforementioned sexual harassment cases.

If the allegations themselves weren't dramatic enough, the AGM was delayed



Photo of Jaskarn Randhawa via SFU

by a smoke bomb set off in the Leslie & Gordon Diamond Family Auditorium where the AGM was scheduled to be held.

Jason Spence, sixth-year biology and computing science student at SFU, attended the AGM and spoke about his experiences in an email interview with the *Other Press*.

"I arrived after everyone had already been evacuated from the smoke bomb

onto [Convocation] Mall," said Spence.

"While we waited for security, firefighters, and apparently the RCMP to clear the smoke, I saw Jas, well-dressed as always, making the rounds with his friends. There seemed to be a core of students against the impeachment. They even had a sign, which made me and some other students nervous as time went on."

However many supporters showed up to champion Randhawa's cause, the weight of testimony and evidence given by speakers at the AGM seemed to decide the matter.

"Samer Rihani, VP Student Services, gave a wonderful introduction," said Spence. "He is one of the few people I've seen able to talk about intensely bureaucratic topics without sounding like he's selling something."

Of all the evidence given, Spence said he felt that SFSS business representative

Jessica Nguyen's speech was the most compelling.

"Bookended by more business-centric arguments for the impeachment from Jackson [Freedman] and Kia, I thought that Jessica Nguyen's moving speech on the mismanaged sexual harassment case and subsequent leaking by Jas was a turning point in the meeting," he said. "After this point, there was a feeling of impatience. Jessica's speech received a standing ovation and was probably the most damning evidence against Jas that was presented at the AGM."

The vote to impeach Randhawa came swiftly afterwards by a show of hands, followed by cheers after the motion passed. As for the future of the SFSS, things seem to be looking up in the wake of this decision.

"I am confident that the SFSS will be more effective now than they were with Jas as the president," said Spence. "As I understand it, Samer will be in charge of presidential roles and their delegation across all remaining board members. I have known Samer since before the election last spring, and I can't think of a person I would be more comfortable with in his position."

'SHIFT' at Douglas

› Discussions, documentaries, and installations on the topic of gender violence

Tania Arora & Katie Czenczek
Staff Reporter, News Editor

Douglas College hosted the *SHIFT: Let's talk gender violence* event from September 24 to September 28 at the New Westminster Campus.

The week started out with a virtual reality experience held in the New West campus's fishbowl, where students were put into the shoes of Indigenous women trying to hitch a ride along BC's Highway of Tears. There were multiple news reports of missing and murdered women along Highway 16, many of which said that authorities have either been unable to find the women or have failed to actively investigate these disappearances.

On each day after that, a documentary was showcased and followed by a discussion at the Aboriginal Gathering Place in the South Building of the campus with refreshments for viewers. The documentaries focused on the multitude of issues encompassed within the broad topic of gender violence.

Many attendees to the event enthusiastically participated in the discussion. Douglas College officially partnered with McGill University for the research project on the issue. Jay Solman, Manager at Student Support and Conduct, said at the documentary on Tuesday, "What we typically see is most people tend to think of gender violence as sexual assault which is often not reported, which is unfortunate. Out of thousands of assaults that take place, only a very small percentage is actually reported."

A screening of *Maple: A Documentary* was held on September 25. It is a short film on the life of Maple Batalia, a 19-year-old student at Simon Fraser University who was murdered in September 2011 by an ex-boyfriend near the university's campus in Surrey. Post-screening, a discussion took place with Jasleen Kaur, director of the documentary, and moderator Gurmit

"Out of thousands of assaults that take place, only a very small percentage is actually reported."

—Jay Solman, Manager at Student Support and Conduct

Grewal, Counsellor at Douglas College.

When asked by the moderator how many people have actually witnessed gender violence during their lifetime, the majority of people raised their hands in the room. Jasleen Kaur said that what inspired her to shoot this film was that she has "been following Maple Batalia's story since day one. I was so affected by the incident that I obsessively followed it throughout the entire process. I always wanted to make a movie reflecting on such issues and after this whole incident where it took around five years for the family of Maple to get justice, I wanted to get into the heart of the story. Having talked to the family about this, they instantly agreed." Kaur started the process in 2016 and it took about a year and a half to make the movie.

The next two documentaries focused on masculinity—through the lens of gender violence on Wednesday, and gender violence against people who are non-binary according to Western/European views of gender on Thursday. Specifically, the Thursday documentary was centred on Two-Spirit peoples, who are disproportionately overrepresented as survivors of gender violence in Canada.

Due to the heavy nature of topics *SHIFT* focuses on, the last day featured a conversation panel where students could ask the organizers and advocates questions about gender violence. The panel was held on Friday evening and had more than half of Laura C. Muir Theatre filled. Adrienne Meador Murray, a veteran law enforcement officer specialized in investigating instances of gender violence, opened up



Photo of Ahelee Bandyopadhyay by Billy Bui

the discussion by speaking about the issue of consent.

Murray said that people working in Canadian law need to better define when consent can be given.

"With regard to alcohol consumption, I think what's really important is that people confuse these things all the time," she said. "This is a very controversial area in the country, and apparently even for judges. People don't seem to understand consent and consent when alcohol is involved. There are three levels to gauge how drunk someone is [...]: impairment, intoxication, and incapacitation. If someone reaches the point that they can no longer operate a motor vehicle legally and are incapacitated, they cannot give consent."

According to Murray, another problem is that Canadian law often puts too much emphasis on physical injuries when judging sexual assault cases, when most cases do not result in severe physical injuries.

After Murray gave her keynote speech, she moderated the panelists, Kasari Govender, Harlan Pruden, Lisa Smith, and Chloe Garcia. Questions about violence on college campuses were answered, along with a discussion about how colonialism and patriarchy have made gender violence more acceptable in Canadian society.

An art installation called *What Were you Wearing?* was featured outside the theatre. This exhibit showcased the different items of clothing university

students were wearing when they were sexually assaulted. Items including a child's sundress, a lifeguard uniform, and pajamas were all hanging around the installation. The clothes were next to anonymous accounts from the survivors. Inspired by the poem "What I Was Wearing" by Mary Simmerling, the intent was to dispel the popular myth that a person's outfit choice determines when and if someone will experience gender violence.

The phenomenon of gender violence can be broadly defined as any act resulting in suffering or harm either physically or psychologically based on gender relations. According to the organization United Nations Women, "It is estimated that 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives." The recent statistics of World Bank show that "Globally, as many as 38 percent of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner," and "200 million women have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting."

The facts and figures are never ending, and although they may seem to be growing in numbers, researchers believe that people are starting to speak out against acts of gender violence more in recent years. Hopefully, events like *SHIFT* can contribute to the dialogue and shed some much-needed light on these issues.

DSU takes an extreme stance on extreme sports

› MMA and Rock Climbing Clubs to no longer be ratified

Katie Czenczek
News Editor

Starting October 1, Douglas College students will no longer be able to punch things and climb to great heights as a part of a club.

After two years of existence, the MMA and DSU Rock Climbing Club will no longer run as of October. This was decided after the DSU formally adopted Douglas College's risk assessment tool, which categorizes various activities into levels of low to extreme risk—low being along the lines of going to a museum while extreme is on the same level as bungee jumping. The document was released in November 2017, which led the former wrestling club to no longer run as a part of the DSU that year.

The risk assessment tool is a document specifically designed for off-campus activities that involve students and is the College's guideline for saying yay or nay to these activities. The MMA club, however, runs most of its activities at the Movement Studio on campus. Although the DSU is a separate legal entity, the risk assessment tool is also the guideline that the Students' Union follows.

Andrew Dalton, the Executive Director for the DSU, said in an interview with the *Other Press* that the decision to no longer ratify the two clubs was not solely based on the risk assessment tool. Rather, the Students' Union also needed approval from their legal counsel and insurance companies.

"We talked to two different insurance companies, and both of them advised us that they wouldn't insure us for these activities," he said. "If anything were to happen, we'd all be liable."

According to Dalton, the question of what the DSU would cover in the future arose when the Rock Climbing Club asked for funding to go on a caving excursion.

"We started looking at what we can

actually be covering," he said. "That's where it came up that basically any type of heavy-contact extreme sports won't be insured."

In an email statement sent to the *Other Press*, Ailison Carvalho, treasurer of the MMA Club, wrote that there hadn't been any injuries since the club had started its activities. Carvalho also wrote that students saved a lot of money from taking these classes, as MMA courses outside of the College can cost a hefty penny.

"We never had one injury in more than four years running it there," she said. "Students were saving \$120 monthly."

The MMA club held classes for students looking to learn Hapkido, Muay Thai, kickboxing, and many other martial arts. They emphasized self-defence techniques and brought in trainers to teach students how to safely practice and improve their form.

The reason the MMA club was no longer ratified was due to a "likelihood of injury," wherein the DSU had to assess the risks of a student being injured by or during the activity. According to Dalton, the DSU determined that the MMA club posed too much of a risk of injury to continue running. He also pointed out that the Rock Climbing Club was directly named on the risk assessment tool.

"With contact sports such as MMA Club, there's a likelihood, which is where the language is different," he said. "For the Rock Climbing Club, they're specifically named as an extreme risk from the College's perspective."

According to Petra Manka, president of the DSU Rock Climbing Club, in June of this year Delaney Sullivan, DSU Clubs Coordinator, sent an email to the clubs that the DSU might be unable to continue supporting certain clubs for the Fall 2018 semester, pending further review. The email named the Rock Climbing and MMA Clubs as specific examples of groups under review and said the DSU would provide



Photo via DSU MMA Club on Facebook

further updates.

However, Manka said in an email interview with the *Other Press* that she had to specifically ask the DSU if the club was to be ratified, and only found out that it would not be after requesting the updated DSU logos for the new semester.

"It was after inquiring that we were told by the DSU that we should look at the new risk assessment tool," she said. "It turns out that the risk assessment tool was slipped in behind the policy manual in our club's registration folder."

That being said, Andrew Dalton said in a follow-up email to the *Other Press* that he "has been informed that there was also a meeting this past spring where the Rock Climbing Club was informed of this in person and there was a meeting with the MMA Club in the fall of 2016 where they were informed that it would eventually happen."

Dalton, who was hired onto the DSU's team this fall, was not a part of the meetings or emails threads directly.

The DSU Rock Climbing Club had grown to 100 members over the past two years. Students in the club could learn bouldering techniques at an indoor climbing gym as novice climbers and would be able to tackle more difficult feats as they went along. Manka said that she felt the risk assessment tool needed to distinguish the different types of rock climbing.

"Rock climbing can be dangerous, if you go outdoors or take part in free-soloing (type of climbing); however, bouldering poses minimal risks to students and can be an activity enjoyed by novices and beginners."

The remaining funding allotted to these two clubs will be put back into the DSU clubs fund and divvied out to other clubs.

Think you're funny?

The Other Press is hiring an Entertainment Editor!
Get **PAID** for being witty and writing creatively.

Please email your resume, cover letter, and writing samples to
editor.otherpress@gmail.com or contact us for more information.

- 'The Book of Mormon' musical review
- 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' play review
- 'Aram Bakajian: Solo Guitar' review
- ...and more!

Deconstructing the façade of masculinity

› 'The Mask You Live In' movie presented at 'SHIFT'

Sonam Kaloti
Arts Editor

Be a man. "That's one of the most destructive phrases in this culture, I believe," says Joe Herman, a coach and former NFL player starring in the documentary *The Mask You Live In*. The movie opens on many faces, all male, speaking to the camera. They tell us that they are sad and explain to us why they feel this way.

Many boys hide behind a mask of masculinity, an emotional mask, because that is how they are raised. Regarding boys displaying fragility, whether it be parents, friends, society, or media, the response is usually clear: Suck it up and be a man. This can be extremely dangerous in so many ways. For one, the trauma caused by repressing emotions can result in a surplus amount of grief, potentially staying with that individual for the rest of their life. Trauma in someone can later manifest into personality disorders, such as ADHD which is three times more likely to occur in boys than it is in girls. Not being allowed to express emotions as a child may also result in the complete rejection of emotion. Boys unable to express themselves as kids might grow to not associate themselves with their emotions as adults, as these emotions will

feel alien to them and the boys will not have learned how to cope.

"[Masculinity is] not something that's developed, it's the rejection of everything that is feminine," says Dr. Caroline Heldman, a political scientist and educator within the film. Femininity and masculinity are constructed within our society, mostly to create a hierarchy—not even between only men and women but also just between men alone. The movie tells us that creating such strong divides between things we can enjoy and participate in, versus things that are forbidden, prevents us from becoming the fully-rounded people we are meant to be. Growing up not knowing who you are can cause damage to your psyche as well. For example, a boy who really enjoys theatre may get bullied for it and instead join a sports team. He may never feel truly accomplished or happy with that decision, but what choice does he have?

This manipulation in our culture of being this person who isn't you is a way to put people into boxes and try to control them; however, it never really works out in the end. You see boys being yelled at as children to "Be a man"—that is, don't do anything that may be considered feminine or else your masculinity will be questioned—and people may resort to insulting these young boys by calling them



Promotional image for 'The Mask You Live In'

"gay" or "girls", which is another huge issue on its own.

"If it would destroy [a 12-year-old boy] to be called a girl, what are we teaching him about girls?" says Tony Porter, an educator and activist. *The Mask You Live In* delves deep into a conversation about what it means in our society to "be a man" versus what it *really* means to be a man.

The movie itself has an average production quality, with a few awkward transitions of music and sampled clips of other media mixed in with its own footage. The sampled media does its part in emphasizing the messages told by the characters, as well as providing proof within examples of media we see every

single day that we may fail to question. With viewpoints of people from every background, including young children, convicted criminals, felons, fathers, artists, sports stars, activists, and professionals in mental health, *The Mask You Live In* explores a wide variety of important topics that are not discussed as often as they should be.

We are not only the next generation of our society, but we are also going to raise the ones after, and the first step to tackling these issues is to recognize them. *The Mask You Live In* does a wonderful job in introducing these present issues; how we handle them in the future is up to us.

The sociopathy of an internet star?

› 'The Mind of Jake Paul' parts one and two by Shane Dawson

Sonam Kaloti
Arts Editor

"People hate me—like literally they hate me. If this is going to hurt you, then I don't want to do it," says Jake Paul in a voicemail to Shane Dawson.

Many people were apprehensive about the latest documentary series set to be uploaded by Internet star Dawson. He has made a few documentary series prior to this one, starring other controversial internet celebrities such as Tana Mongeau and Jeffree Star. In past series, viewers criticized that Dawson was far too quick to forgive the stars' mistakes from their pasts. The same viewers are concerned that, once

again, Dawson will be too empathetic and fail to reprimand the star of his new series, Jake Paul.

Dawson, however, already had a plan of action for his series with Paul, saying, "I want this time to actually sit down in a room with him and be like: This is why people don't like you, this is what you did that was bad, I want you to tell me why you did it, be honest about it, and change your life, and fucking stop."

I, myself, had been waiting over a month for this series to be released. I found myself nervous before I hit play, anticipating what the next 40 minutes were going to be like and wanting it to be over and for me to have already finished

watching it, just so I didn't have to spend the time and could already have absorbed all the content.

Part one begins with a headshot on Dawson speaking directly into the camera with a disclaimer that we're about to jump into, as he states, "*The Mind of Jake Paul*, which is going to be a rollercoaster, and a plane crash, and every other disaster you could think of, so good luck!"

The editing is instantly phenomenal, accounting for every small detail that goes into a good film, from a dark video filter, sound reverb, example footage clips, and hundreds of specific sounds, which must have taken a very long time despite impressive skills by both Dawson and

editor and cameraman Andrew Siwicki. Part one of the series focuses on Dawson interviewing a fellow YouTube star, iNabber, to acquire more knowledge on the drama and history of Paul, the ex-Disney star turned internet sensation. Part two of the series centres on an interview with licensed family therapist Kati Morton on what to look for in a potential sociopath, which Jake Paul has been accused of being.

"Some people are mad that we are talking about sociopaths [...] but I've had professionals around me this whole time tell me that you can't offend them, that's not a thing. They don't care. No, they're not all evil, serial killers, whatever, they just don't care," Dawson says in the series. However, after only two parts of the eight-part series being released, Dawson has faced a lot of backlash for potentially stigmatizing disorders such as antisocial personality disorder, which is a spectrum. He has since taken to social media to apologize for going overboard with the horror editing and has informed his audience that he will be re-editing the rest of the series before it is released to avoid hurting anyone.

The two released parts of the series have already amassed a total of 26 million views within the first three days of release, so with a few more days to wait for the next part, the anticipation is only growing.



Image via @shanedawson on Instagram

You better werq

› ‘RuPaul’s Drag Race: Werq the World’ review

Roshni Riar
Staff Writer

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Before I get into this review I must come clean: I’m a huge fan of *RuPaul’s Drag Race*. However, it’s not because of the occasionally cringe-worthy moments or the faults of a host (RuPaul) who may or may not have some incredibly outdated opinions when it comes to the art of drag. I love the show because of the drag queens chosen to showcase their talent to the world.

Being a fan, I was naturally excited to hear that a lineup of *Drag Race* alumni would be performing at the Vogue Theatre in Vancouver on September 22 as part of *Werq The World*, a worldwide drag tour hosted by Voss Events. I purchased my ticket (slightly perturbed by the hefty price tag) and at 9 pm on the day, I settled into my seat as the lights dimmed promisingly.

The show was hosted by Bob the Drag Queen (season eight winner) and featured performances by Kim Chi (season eight runner-up), Valentina (season nine Miss Congeniality), Eureka O’Hara (season 10 top four), Kameron Michaels (season 10 top four), Asia O’Hara (season 10 top four) and the current reigning drag superstar, the winner of season 10 of *Rupaul’s Drag Race*, Aquaria.

If you don’t know what transpires during a drag show, I’ll give you a summary of probabilities: Lip syncs, dancing, hair flips, splits, voguing, outfit reveals, jokes, and audience banter—all of which I got to see.

Over the course of the two-hour show, I laughed, cringed, waved my hands, and shouted classic *Drag Race* quotes with the rest of the audience. The production value of the show was seriously impressive. From the elaborate individualized sets that were put together for each drag queen’s lip sync, to the lights, smoke, and backup dancers that accented every performance; at times I felt like I was watching the TV show.

The show at the Vogue opened with a lip sync number that revealed all the queens performing. Bob the Drag Queen, in a Cruella de Vil inspired outfit, welcomed us to the show, explaining—like I just did—how a drag show works. As she left the stage, Kim Chi took her place in a *Sailor Moon* outfit and did a nostalgic lip sync to a *Sailor Moon* theme song mashup that the audience seemed to really enjoy. Next up, Kameron Michaels was wheeled onto the stage, standing in a set piece that looked like a giant mirror of which she was the reflection, with a jagged gold crown on her head. Her number included songs like “Disturbia” by Rihanna and spoken word bits that added to an evil queen persona she was trying to emulate. Each queen had



Promotional image for ‘Werq the World’ via Vimeo

a different theme and emotion behind their performance which kept it fresh.

Aquaria, clad in a sequined stars and stripes outfit, did a comical lip sync to a horribly sung “Star-Spangled Banner” and while the performance was much shorter than the other girls, I did enjoy it. Admittedly, I expected a bit more from the current reigning champion but there were rumours she was suffering from a respiratory infection, so I gave her a pass. Valentina was a disco queen for her performance, lip syncing to classic songs like “On the Radio” by Donna Summer and showing off some impressive moves in a shimmery silver mini-dress.

My favourite performer was Bob the Drag Queen, who had three outfit reveals to match her fiery performance. She lip-synced to “Burnin’ Up” by Jessie J and performed a mix of fire-centric songs

featuring an iconic moment in *Drag Race* history, in which Kennedy Davenport tries to explain an outfit for a season seven runway theme—Death Becomes Her—and fails miserably. It was a performance laden with inside jokes for *Drag Race* fans, which the audience reacted happily to. Strangers were lip-syncing with each other, bonding over the shared experience.

As the final group performance concluded and confetti settled on the audience’s shoulders, I was surrounded by smiles, glitter, and chattering fans from all walks of life already reviewing their favourite moments from the night. I was struck by how far drag culture has come since *Drag Race* first aired in 2008. While the show isn’t representative of drag in its entirety, it’s a great start to acceptance. *Werq the World* certainly embodied that notion and for that, I can’t complain.

‘You can’t butcher that song’

› ‘Aram Bajakian: Solo Guitar’ review

Sonam Kaloti
Arts Editor

Aram Bajakian humbly carried his own guitar, sheet music, and water bottle to the stage of the Laura C. Muir Theatre, wearing a normal outfit of a dull blue button-up, jeans, a grey zip-up hoodie, and grey sneakers. Seeing this man anywhere else, I would have never guessed the talent that lay within him.

Bajakian performed a free show on September 27 as part of the weekly *Arts at One* concert series. The audience was hushed as Bajakian awkwardly tuned his guitar. Looking around the theatre, I saw everyone captivated by the delicate reverb of the notes Bajakian played. A strange trance state came over me as well, for the notes from his instrument had an odd, mystical quality to them. With the soft indigo lights shining behind him and reflecting off the audience, the entire scene looked as though we had been transported into an eerie, dreamlike place.

While the first song he played was merely an improv on electric guitar, he then switched to acoustic; his fingers skillfully traversing up and down the entire fretboard as only a master’s hands could. His body moved fluidly, feeling every note of his guitar strings.

“I’m going to play a Beatles song. It’s about the first girl I ever loved,” he said to the audience. The crowd roared in “Aww,” followed by Bajakian laughing and saying, “It’s not an ‘aww’ story!”

He made great usage of piano (quiet) and forte (loud) levels of his playing within the silence of the theatre. Although the concert did not have much vocal communication, that may have been the

most beautiful part, since people weren’t there to be entertained; they were there for the music. He then swapped his acoustic for a crisp-sounding electric, proving he is a man of many guitars and an all-around



Photo by Sonam Kaloti

skilled player of the instrument. The clean notes peeking through the electric squeals and noise emitted powerful emotion, kind of like a monologue by some character telling a story.

“Let’s start that one again, you can’t butcher that song,” Bajakian said at one point, pausing mid-song to restart. As an audience member, I couldn’t tell he had made a mistake at all, but it was admirable that he felt the need to provide his audience with a performance that was to the best of his ability.

He also appealed to all the people in the room by playing songs from a wide spread of genres. One of the pieces he performed sounded like an alien abduction, fit with loud noise, jingles, and meditation bells moving on the fretboard of his electric guitar, which was a technique I’ve never seen before. He spoke about the technique later, saying that he experimented with the bells in a variety of different ways, but that not knowing how they would to react to the guitar in a live setting keeps him, the musician, on his toes and keeps things exciting. Another exciting technique he used involved running his hands down the side of his acoustic guitar making drum sounds as though it were a dhol, an Indian instrument.

Bajakian created an amazing ambience using only a few instruments and lights (which had changed to hot pink by the end of the show)—truly an experience for a Thursday afternoon.

Tomorrow is a latter day

› ‘The Book of Mormon’ musical review

Roshni Riar
Staff Writer

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On September 25, *The Book of Mormon*—in conjunction with *Broadway Across Canada*—opened its six-day run at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in downtown Vancouver. As a relative newbie to the world of musicals I wasn't sure what to expect, but as the rating I gave the show might indicate, I could not have been more impressed.

The Book of Mormon is a comedy musical that follows two missionaries, the model Mormon Elder Price (played by Kevin Clay) and the eccentric and desperate Elder Cunningham (Conner Pierson), who upon graduating missionary training are sent to Uganda for their first posting with the hope of bringing in new recruits. What follows is their hilarious, brutal, and surprisingly earnest attempt at teaching the word of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to the people of the Ugandan village in which they are living.

To say that the set design, lighting, and precisely-orchestrated score were the most impressive things about the show wouldn't be hyperbolic in the slightest. The different scenes slid, spun, and transitioned from one to the next with such fluidity that it felt like there could be no other way to witness the changing of settings. Different

backdrops lifted and dropped to set the characters' surroundings and sometimes interact with them in unexpected ways. There was a simple moment during the song “You and Me (But Mostly Me)” where Elder Cunningham is struggling to stand out against Elder Price, and the backdrop—three black walls of fabric—closes in on Elder Cunningham as he falls to his stomach and struggles to stay visible. It was like watching an iris out, a technique that was typical in old television shows right before credits roll, and it was visually striking.

The cast were all exceptional but those who stood out to me beyond the two protagonists were Elder McKinley (played by Andy Huntington Jones), a Mormon missionary who struggles to repress his homosexuality to keep hold of his faith, and Nabulungi (Kayla Pecchioni), a girl in the Ugandan village who befriends the two Elders on their mission. They both portrayed their characters brilliantly, from subtlety in emotion and humour to embodying their parts in the many songs that featured them. The musical contained a running joke in which Elder Cunningham kept mispronouncing Nabulungi's name until it just morphed into him saying random words that began with N and even though his lines were funny, her reactions were what sold it.

I highly encourage you to listen to the soundtrack of *The Book of Mormon* when you get a chance. Ever since I watched

the show I've either had a song from the musical stuck in my head or have been listening the soundtrack any chance I get. I expected good things from the writers of the script, with music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Matt Stone, and Robert Lopez (Parker and Stone are the creators of *South Park*), and I was right to assume they'd knock it out of the park. The songs, most of them either incredibly upbeat or dramatic in sound, feature heavy criticism of religion sprinkled throughout the lyrics, subtly but effectively. The commentary on organized religion is presented in such an implicit way that it made me think on the impact of the words more than if it had been spelled out for the audience.

My favourite song is “Turn It Off”, a song that the missionaries who welcome Elder Price and Elder Cunningham sing to explain how they don't get down about

the fact they haven't made any progress on their mission work in Uganda up to that point. They explain how when they feel any doubt or confusion, they just use a “nifty little Mormon trick” and turn off their emotions. I thought that was incredibly relatable and it made me wonder how many people actually feel that way about religion or emotions in general. It was both funny and thought-provoking at the same time—much like the rest of the show, really.

As the house lights went up at the end of the two-hour show, the audience leapt to their feet and broke out in a thunderous applause. Looking around at the laughing faces around me, I finally understood why *The Book of Mormon* has won nine Tony Awards and garnered such critical acclaim in its time on Broadway.



Photo of A.J. Holmes and First National Tour Cast via 'The Book of Mormon'

Complexity solves the mystery

› ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time’ play review

Jerrison Oracion
Senior Columnist

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I've been waiting to see this play ever since I found out about it from an incident in 2013 where the roof of the theatre collapsed during a performance of this play and the audience thought that it was part of the show. When the play won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2013, I learned that the mystery is interesting and curious and that it is an innovative and visually dazzling production. I knew going in that the Arts Club production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* would be a great and entertaining play. After watching it, I'd say that it is the best play of this decade.

Based on the bestselling book by Mark Haddon, Christopher Boone (*Adventures in Public School* and *Alex Strangelove's* Daniel Doheny) has autism and he lives with his father, Ed (Todd Thomson), because his mother, Judy (Jennifer Copping), passed away from a heart attack recently. Christopher likes math a lot and wants to be an astronaut. While he understands the things around him, he does not have the words to express them. When their neighbour's dog, Wellington, is found murdered with a red garden fork, Christopher goes into detective work to solve the curious incident. As he gets more

clues from interviewing various people around him, including strangers, more mysteries are created that must be solved.

During the play, Christopher's assistant in school, Siobhan (Ghazal Azarbad), narrates the story and goes inside Christopher's mind. The design of the set has space for projections that show what he is talking about and answer questions. The set is well-designed and shows the wonders of space, which matches Christopher's fascination with it.

If you watch the play very carefully, you will probably figure out who murdered Wellington within 20 minutes of it. Throughout the play, almost every actor in it also plays other characters. For example, Argy Jenati plays a lot of people who live in apartments. The choreography during the scenes when Christopher walks, which are mainly featured in Act II, are so good that the entire cast makes contemporary dance look cool. Everyone in the play is great; there are fantastic performances from Doheny and Azarbad, who both do an excellent job showing the relationship between a student and his assistant.

Like the characters that he played in *Adventures in Public School* and this play, Doheny is fascinated with space, and he likes Neil deGrasse Tyson and reads his books—which I found out when I had the chance to ask him a question during the Q&A after a Talkback Tuesday



Photo by David Cooper

performance. When I asked the cast about the complexity of the mystery in the play, Micheal Querin, who plays Reverend Peters, said that the overture sounds like detective music and it sets a fun instead of serious mood, which makes the curious incident curious. The cast also talked about Christopher being lonely and how it affects his parents and him solving the mystery of who murdered Wellington.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a contemporary and technological play that shows a person who is different, doing things that others thought wasn't possible. It is a show worth seeing. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is now playing at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage until October 7.

LIFE & STYLE

- Fan Expo guest list: Cartoons and video games
- Telltale Games' past, present, and future?
- ...and more!

Great Inclinations

› Should BC's trails adopt a 'pay-to-hike' system?

Jacey Gibb
Distribution Manager

Great Inclinations is your go-to source for diving into the world of casual hiking in and around the Lower Mainland. Because hiking's not just for assholes anymore.

Hiking, whether it appeals to you or not, is a pastime with a diverse following. On any given trail you can pass all kinds of hikers, from people hiking solo all the way to large school groups. I've seen toddlers scrambling up dirt trails, as well as watched elderly folks breeze past me while I'm already huffing and wheezing. Hiking in British Columbia is a great, low-cost hobby that's accessible to a range of people, and I'm worried that might change in the near future.

As reported by the CBC, Pemberton asked the provincial government last summer to look into developing "a trail booking and reservation system fee structure"—as it was worded in their proposal—for the popular trail at Joffre

Lakes. In recent years the provincial park has experienced a boom in popularity, to the point where lack of available parking and an increase in littering are now a major concern.

A reservation and fee system might sound like a valid and quick solution for at least some of Joffre Lakes' immediate issues. For one, people might feel less inclined to undertake a hike if they have to pay a fee, reducing the volume of hikers and potential waste left behind. Revenue from the fee system could also be used to bolster park infrastructure, from adding more parking lots to hiring rangers to patrol and enforce the rules of the trail.

However, I am strongly against the idea of making the popular Pemberton hike—and possibly others in the future—a pay-to-hike trail.

Hiking already has a significant built-in financial barrier due to geography. Even within the Lower Mainland, many hikes reside outside the reach of public transit, so only people with a vehicle or access to one can enjoy these trails. By adding a fee onto BC's trails, you're further turning hiking



into a privileged activity.

There's also no evidence to show that charging hikers will alleviate Joffre's woe. While not a perfect comparison, the local Grouse Grind already has a sort of fee system. It's free to ascend the wildly-popular trail but hiking back down is not permitted; instead hikers are required to take the Skyride gondola down—which costs \$15. Despite the additional price tag, the Grouse Grind has amassed a cult following of fitness enthusiasts and is incredibly busy. This suggests that when people are committed to a trail, they're still willing to hike it regardless of extra costs.

I generally try to avoid busy hikes like

Joffre Lakes, so adding a reservation fee wouldn't really affect me. However, I'm keeping a close eye on the story because of possible repercussions for BC's other trails. How the provincial government proceeds with Joffre Lakes will likely affect how other popular hikes located within provincial parks are treated in the future.

Hiking is a low-key way to spend time outdoors, either working on your fitness or just taking in the awesome nature that British Columbia is known for. The last thing we should be doing is adding more financial barriers to safeguard these opportunities for only those who can afford them.

Eastside Flea market

› Food trucks, DJs, vintage clothing, vendors, and much more

Tania Arora
Staff Reporter

At Eastside Flea you can witness local talent from all across British Columbia. The market is East Van's newly-relocated hub showcasing the best of culture and art, featuring everything from live music to fresh food and all kinds of incredible vendors.

The Eastside Flea relocated to Eastside Studios at 550 Malkin Avenue this September. The entry ticket is \$3, and the studio provides quite a big sitting space where you can relax. The essence of the market is its vintage clothing sale starting

from just \$5.

Right from the entrance of the studio, the flea market bleeds vintage. The food trucks parked at the entrance have a list of lip-smacking items you won't be able to resist. From old school comfort food by Cheeze; to tacos, burritos, and bowls by Bandidas Taqueria; and even serving lattes, assorted teas, and many more by Brewnetti Cafe—you can definitely start your exploration with a happy stomach.

Tayybeh is a food company that helps women from Syria start working as chefs, giving them income as well as a sense of community. They are one of the many vendors and surprisingly, their traditional Syrian food looks to be all vegan.

If you get thirsty, the market has a big bar set up for you. The cocktail menu holds palomas, Dark and Stormies, kombucha, micheladas, Negronis, Caesars, and many more. The beer people need not worry—they cater to the craft-lovers too.

Tartics has an amazing collection of art with dark humor and irony, and it's just not them! You can find a plethora of talented artists showcasing their work, from embroidered and painted hoops to bookmarks, postcards to animation illustrations. These are not just some regular people; they are all artists with their best pieces there to show you.

If you're fond of authentic and vintage jewelry, Eastside Flea is exactly the place for

you to discover your perfect collection.

You may also be able to meet some entrepreneurs in this market. One of them is Amanda, who along with her girlfriend started Slaab Designs, which sells handmade concrete creations. Her stall features scented soy candles with concrete bases.

The list could go on and on about the vendors, artists, entrepreneurs, cuisines, drinks, and more. This Eastside Flea is a must-visit hub for everyone out there, for youngsters to experience the old classics and for others to relive the good old days. You will be able to find all the essentials under one roof, all-natural and handmade.



Photo via Eastside Flea on Facebook

Eastside Studios 550 Malkin Avenue

Every other weekend
Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm
Next: October 6 and 7, 2018

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE WONDER WOMEN

NARRATIVE EVOLUTION OF THE SUPERHEROINE

Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor

“ *Designing a character as a gender swap of another character is no way to create a lasting narrative.* ”



There is no question that in recent years female superheroes have found a place in the limelight. Whether this is due to compelling character writing, casting controversies, or any other number of reasons, super ladies are so in right now. However, they didn't start out this way. As a fan of the dynamic heroine, I have paid my dues and taken my time in carefully examining the evolution of the super ladies, so I want to highlight how we got to this point. How did the Scarlet Witches and the Wonder Women of the narrative world come to be, and what might this growth mean for their futures?

When I mention the “Golden Age” of comics (1930s to 1950s) a lot of people get really excited. This is the time when iconic heroes like Superman, Batman, and Captain America first came into being. However, in terms of the ladies, this was not a good period. In general, women weren't much a part of the Golden Age in terms of having superpowers of their own. They were the love interests, the damsels, the femme fatales, and the quirky comic relief to fawn over the hero. They weren't heroes themselves—at least, not yet!

The first female comic book superhero was actually a little-known lady by the name of Fantomah. She was created by Fletcher Hanks, who was working under the name Barclay Flagg at the time. Her first appearance was in 1940 in *Jungle Comics* #2, near the tail end of the Golden Age. In terms of powers she was mercurial. Her powers weren't completely set and would often change with each new scenario she encountered. Fantomah was an ancient and immortal witch who inflicted increasingly sadistic punishments on those who threatened her jungle home. Her signature—and her character's only consistent supernatural feature—was that her normally beautiful face would change into a skull whenever she used her powers. Needless to say, she wasn't quite as engaging or dynamic as her male predecessors. However, she did inspire a long line of more recognizable heroines to come.

Wonder Woman, who made her debut in *All Star Comics* #8 (1941), is one of the most iconic female superheroes of all time. In her initial conception, Wonder Woman was basically developed, stylistically, as a feminized Superman. Wonder Woman was created by William Moulton Marston, also known as Charles Moulton—who, it is widely known, based the character on both his wife, psychologist/lawyer Elizabeth Holloway Marston, and their polyamorous romantic partner, Mary Olive Byrne. To put some things into context, Moulton was also a psychologist and together with his wife was responsible for developing a way of measuring blood pressure as a means of detecting deception, i.e. the prototype of the lie detector—lasso anyone? Their partner, Mary Olive Byrne, was the daughter of Ethel Byrne, who—along with Margaret Sanger—opened the US's first birth control clinic. So, right from the start, Wonder Woman was always meant to inspire independence and strength in women.

In an essay he wrote for *The American Scholar* in 1943—two years after Wonder Woman's first published appearance—Moulton said, “Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, and power. Not wanting to be girls, they don't want to be tender, submissive, peace-loving as good women are. Women's strong qualities have become despised because of their weakness. The obvious remedy is to create a feminine character with all the strength of Superman plus all the allure of a good and beautiful woman.” Although this comment seems a little stereotypical by today's standards, in 1943 claiming any form of authority or power specifically for women was pretty radical. However, designing a character as a gender swap of another character is no way to create a lasting narrative. Hence why, in order to survive, Wonder Woman and all of the other superheroines to come had to evolve.

By the '60s and '70s the super ladies were rising up in the ranks. Headlined by characters like Sue Storm and Big Barda, female superheroes were beginning to develop in their own right, with powers outside of

male duplicates. However, major publication houses struggled to come to terms with the popularization of the Comics Code Authority (CCA)—a regulatory committee for comic content formulated in 1954—post-WWII and at the crux of the sexual revolution. Publishers began implementing strict self-regulatory restrictions on their writers and artists. DC Comics had an in-house policy code which decreed, “The inclusion of females in stories is specifically discouraged. Women, when used in plot structure, should be secondary in importance, and should be drawn realistically, without exaggeration of feminine physical qualities.” This was done as a means of avoiding CCA attention, since comics involving women were more heavily scrutinized for violations. These violations could range from anything from “obscenity” to “suggestive posture.”

The code metrics used by the CCA were pretty limiting. Though not illegal to sell comics that did not meet CCA standards, distributors willing to go outside these rules were so few and far between that to put forward a publication outside of code standards was essentially a move towards bankruptcy. The CCA criteria would be revised numerous times in the '70s and '80s, becoming less and less stringent as time would move on. By the '90s adherence to the CCA was no longer expected by distributors and it fell by the wayside in favour of publisher-determined maturity ratings.

As if in response to the de facto dismantling of the CCA, the '90s marked the rise of oversaturation and oversexualization in comics. Both male and female characters began to take on ridiculous proportions in order to meet some social expectation of hyper-masculine and hyper-feminine archetypes. Nudity also became more common, and the depiction of sexual desire was no longer limited to villains, with the occasional foray by a caped crusader. The creative field of comics was vastly male dominated, with a specific concentration on catering to a male readership, so female superheroes tended to be hyper-sexualized, though still powerful. The dichotomy of heroines became more of a “yes mistress” kind of masochistic scenario, or the character was relegated to being eye candy or, worse yet, torture porn fodder—see *Batman: War Games* (2004 to 2005) in which Batgirl is tortured to death by a very phallic power drill wielded by Gotham crime boss the Black Mask.

This shift into hyper-sexualization was so extreme that no one expected it to last, and it didn't. However, this era alongside the Golden Age are the two aesthetic pinnacles that people outside of the comics community seem to draw on the most when prompted to describe comics.

Today, due to female voices demanding better representation in pop culture, we see a growing variety of female superhero depictions. Greater numbers of heroines are now being shown as coming from various social and ethnic backgrounds. In addition, character-driven and independent narratives are becoming the norm. This means that female characters are being spotlighted outside of any male counterpart, and they are being given motivation behind their actions as well as emotional complexity. We have a long way to go, but it's definitely a good start.

Something I do fear, though, is that feminine representation will go the same way as video games and regress. With new film icons like Captain Marvel stepping up to the plate, there has been a deep-seated focus on equality of the genders. This focus is so hyper-tuned in other forms of popular media, such as video games, that it goes unnoticed when publishers formulate iconic female characters as carbon copies of a male counterpart—much like Wonder Woman once was for Superman. For instance, the latest iteration of Lara Croft from the *Tomb Raider* franchise has essentially become a female Nathan Drake from the *Uncharted* franchise. With Captain Marvel this would be all too easy, seeing as the original character began as a male—this male version would later develop into the character Shazam. However, with the recent success of female-driven narratives, such as *Wonder Woman* (2017), I'm hoping this fear is unfounded.



Fan Expo guest list: Cartoons and video games

› Voice actors galore!

Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor

Not really a big fan of film and television? Maybe you're too young to appreciate *Stargate* or *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*? Well, not to worry! Fan Expo—running from October 12 to 14—has also put together a pretty stellar list of voice actors from our favourite cartoons and video games.

Headlining this category is Kevin Conroy! Best known as the voice of Batman in pretty much any DC animated production in last 25 years, Conroy is also known for his work as Hardman on *The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest*, and as Bellicus in *Ben 10: Alien Force*. That isn't to say he's a slouch when it comes to gaming either. Conroy has provided some of the secondary character voices in classic video games like *Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy* and *Lords of EverQuest*.

“Fan Expo has also put together a pretty stellar list of voice actors from our favorite cartoons and video games.”

Right behind Kevin Conroy in terms of nerd cred is Vic Mignogna. Probably most widely known for his work as Broly in the English dub of *Dragon Ball*, Mignogna is also the voice of Edward Elric in *Fullmetal Alchemist*. He has also lent his voice to the *Digimon* franchise as Matt Ishida, and to *RWBY* as Qrow Branwen. These are just to name a few; believe me, the dude's resume is pretty lengthy and very impressive. Though not new to attending Fan Expo, I'm excited to see any Vic Mignogna panels in the chance he might be discussing any of his current projects—which include several TV series, a rumored return to the *Persona* franchise as fan-favorite Junpei Iori, and a couple of new *Sonic* games.

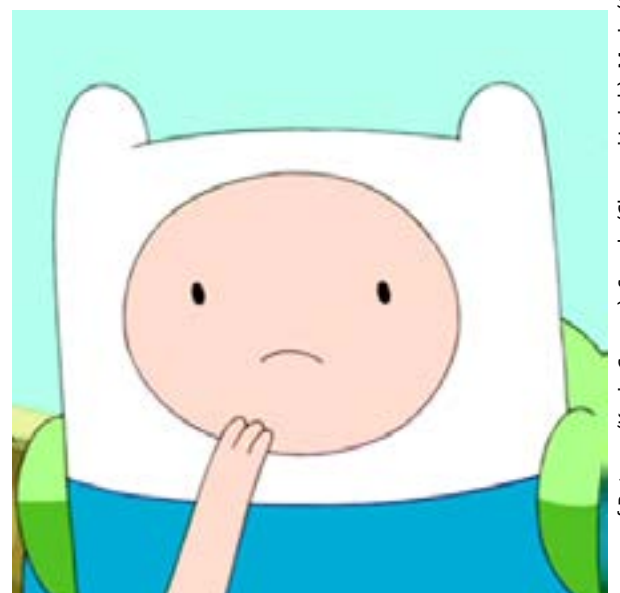
Joining Vic Mignogna, fellow *Dragon Ball* alumnus Sean Schemmel will also be at Fan Expo this year. Schemmel voiced the English dub of Goku throughout most of the franchise. He voices the Overseers in *Dishonored 2* and *Dishonored: Death of the Outsider* as well. However, my favorite role he's done is that of Hiroto in *Beck: Mongolian Chop Squad*.

Doing it for the Nintendo fans out there, Charles Martinet—AKA the voice of Mario and Luigi—will be making an appearance all three days. Martinet isn't known for too much outside of his portrayal of the iconic brothers but being the go-to voice for Mario and Luigi keeps him more than busy and his resume more than full.

Providing a newer perspective is Lucie Pohl! Pohl is the voice of Mercy in Blizzard's *Overwatch*. She also provided the voice of Rixxa Fluxflame in *World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth* and acted as Harmony in the long-running comedy sci-fi series *Red Dwarf*.

Fans of the *Naruto* spin-off *Boruto* will be pleased to hear that Cherami Leigh and Amanda Miller—the voices of Sarada Uchiha and Boruto, respectively—will both be at Fan Expo. Leigh also has stakes in hit anime series *My Hero Academia* as Pixie-Bob, while Miller is also the voice actress behind Sailor Jupiter in *Sailor Moon Crystal*.

Finally, Jeremy Shada will be making an appearance. Shada is the voice of Finn in *Adventure Time*, as well as Lance in *Voltron: Legendary Defender*. These are two franchises with some of the biggest fandoms—meaning that people will be flocking to his booth. Not to worry though, he will be at the convention all three days.



Telltale signs

› The gaming studio's past, present, and future?

Peter Tran
Contributor

It's confusing and upsetting when a widely-known company shuts down abruptly, leaving a crater where it used to be. In Telltale's case, it left approximately 225 people unemployed without warning, without severance pay, and healthcare only lasting until the end of the month—in an instant.

This “majority studio closure”—as it is being identified by Telltale—is only keeping a skeleton crew of 25 employees to “fulfill the company's obligations to its board and partners,” said Telltale's CEO Pete Hawley in a press release. According to a source who spoke to *Variety*, this is referring to moving *Minecraft: Story Mode* to Netflix as part of their “interactive content.”

The Walking Dead: The Final Season, the project Telltale was currently in the middle of when this announcement was made, is out with only two of four episodes. Telltale's Twitter states that they are “actively working towards a solution that will allow episodes 3 and 4 to be completed” after “multiple potential partners have stepped forward to express interest in helping to see *The Final Season* through.” While it isn't concrete, the message left fans and developers conflicted.

This begs the question, why didn't the higher-ups look for partners before things got dire, and when did it all go wrong? All

the *telltale* signs become more apparent looking back.

Telltale was founded in 2004 and made a name for themselves by telling episodic stories of popular intellectual properties (IP) through choice-based gameplay and light puzzle-solving. This made the gameplay easily accessible to anyone at any skill level.



Screenshot of 'The Wolf Among Us'

“Despite the horrible decisions and leadership, one can't deny the impact Telltale has had on the industry.”

First known for games such as *Sam & Max*, *Back to the Future*, and *Jurassic Park*, the game that garnered them accolades as well as commercial success was *The Walking Dead* (TWD) released

in 2012. While *TWD* was captivating, it had a few technical issues. At the time, it was refreshing to see the underdog rise up and deliver an outstanding experience, so players were willing to look past these minor flaws. It was part of their charm as a smaller studio and many thought that surely they would update and fix things moving forward.

The Wolf Among Us (TWAU), *TWD Season Two*, *Tales from the Borderlands* (TFTB), and *Game of Thrones* were all fully released by 2015. All were released after *TWD*, yet they all had similar technical issues. This continued consistently throughout the years, however a decline in quality was also noticed post-*TFTB*.

Season out. If that sounds like way too much content to be released in a single year, it's because it is. This overreaching became increasingly apparent as more games were cited as being bug-filled and glitchy—an example being when Xbox button prompts show up on PlayStation 4 copies of *TFTB*.

This doesn't even account for the announced *TWAU: Season Two*, *Game of Thrones: Season Two*, and the discussions they had with Netflix about developing a *Stranger Things* game, which are now all presumably cancelled.

Amidst all these problems, the studio was in the middle of restructuring to start anew, but sadly these efforts seem to have ended with this closure. Hawley said in his statement: “It's been an incredibly difficult year for Telltale as we worked to set the company on a new course. Unfortunately, we ran out of time trying to get there.”

Despite the horrible decisions and leadership, one can't deny the impact Telltale has had on the industry. Many games adopted and experimented with the episodic nature of their game releases, such as the beloved *Life is Strange* series.

Telltale's emphasis on storytelling added to the hunger players have for a well-written narrative, a trend that is still growing strong in today's market dominated by online multiplayer games.

When looking back on all the memories, the laughter, and the tears created playing these stories, it's important to remember that it's the result of the hard work of the employees who poured late nights into it, and to hope that the people who brought you these experiences land back on their feet.

While Telltale is now gone, their work is not forgotten, and the bounty of amazing stories they told will never leave us. The players will remember that.

Of a certain age: Who is Karen Segal?

› An introduction to maturity

Karen Segal
Contributor

My cellphone is awash with photos of Lafarge Lake across from the Coquitlam campus of Douglas College. The first week of the fall semester was sunny and warm and so snap, snap, snap went I. Despite living in Vancouver for more than 30 years, I had never been to this part of Coquitlam.

A bit about me. Bear with me if you will; this will only take a few sentences. I'm a mature student, over 50 we could say, though not massively so—and I've laboured the last 20 years as an ESL teacher for adults. This field is one of the most chronically-insecure fields around. Many apologies to those studying it currently. It wasn't back in 1998-99 when I trained for it and for seven years I had a great job with a private international school in Vancouver—benefits, a good wage, even sick days! I had never known such job security, having been a journalist and then a freelancer prior to teaching.

However, in 2011, due to bad management and collapsing economies, the school closed. Since then, for almost seven years, I went from contract to contract with often many unemployed months in between.

I was stuck in a rut, so stuck that I

tried to make it comfortable and make it make sense.

“I'm working two hours at the downtown school today!” I'd tell people.

“How is that legal?” my friends would respond.

Rut.

Then my father died, and I received an inheritance (Thank you, Joe Segal. I miss your presence on the Earth).

In May of this year, I saw an ad for a new program starting at Langara College. I enrolled and backed out when I realized that while the program sounded informative and challenging, I couldn't actually get a job from it. Employers I'd queried said what I'd actually need was a Therapeutic Recreation Diploma.

I was soon registered for two courses in the Academic Foundations program. There are pre-requisites before I am officially accepted into the Therapeutic Recreation program. I still need to do some volunteer hours, but this will get me started.

Both classes—running three times a week in total—are at 8:30 am. No matter! Armed with my backpack, my new binders, and my new loose-leaf paper I headed forth on September 4 to attend my first class, Anatomy and Physiology. I took a picture of the outside of the D Building, the inside of the D Building, and the

classroom. I shot a short video of myself heading into the classroom.

In all of the excitement, I had slept about three hours the night before.

I am a part-time student.

“You love classroom learning,” a friend said to me as I paced one evening before my big day.

“I love classroom learning,” I repeated. She was right, but I had gotten my B.A. almost 30 years ago before the Internet, the mass use of cellphones, and well before many of the students I would be in class with had been born.

“They will call me grandma,” I opined.

“Oh, they will not. Well, probably not,” said my friend.

And so, it has begun. Let me tell you

the Anatomy and Physiology class has me kind of terrified—so much to memorize and so many new words (to me, not actual new words). My other class requires an essay with APA referencing. APA referencing it seems hasn't gotten easier in the last three decades, but I soldier on.

So, this is me. I will be writing a weekly column from the perspective of being a mature student. An early column may well be about the lockdown drill we had last week and the awe-inspiring moment when I realized that getting up off of the floor after the drill might take me the whole class. Next time kneel and hold onto a desk like the instructor, Karen!

No one, I will note, has called me grandma yet.



Photo by Karen Segal

- The quantification of social media
 - Frugal feud
 - Wild animals are NOT interested in meeting you!
- ...and more!

The quantification of social media

› We shouldn't obsess about our number of followers and likes

Naomi Ambrose
Staff Writer

Kanye West recently made headlines once again for another one of his controversial statements. West tweeted about having an option to turn off the visibility of a social media user's number of followers and likes. While many of us might be quick to dismiss Kanye's statements, I think this time his words are worth exploring—especially in this age of excessive social media consumption and production.

Let's first examine the definition of social media. At its core, social media can be described as the use of various devices and systems to create and share different types of digital and online content. The use of the devices to create and share the content also involves engaging with the content via comments and likes.

The focus, from the definition, revolves around the act of content creation and engagement. Does the definition include followers and likes? No, not at all. I think if we focus on the true purpose of social media, this unhealthy obsession over the number of followers and likes we have can be reduced.

Eliminating our large follower obsession could also reduce the competitive and monetization-driven nature of social media. It is a race to see



who can get the largest number of followers in the shortest time frame. Dozens of companies and entrepreneurs frequently emerge, claiming to increase an Instagram or Twitter user's followers.

Sometimes, users see ads in their feed from entrepreneurs and startups that specialize in follower growth. A quick Instagram search for increasing followers

results in countless Instagram follower growth accounts. A similar search on Twitter yields similar results.

On the other hand, the users with hundreds, thousands, and millions of followers may not support having an option to hide the number of followers and likes that one has. After all, users with a large following can make a lot of

money. Many brands pay users with large followings to post content about their brands. According to a *Forbes* article by Clare O'Connor, "Fellow fitness influencer Lyzabeth Lopez, creator of the Hourglass Workout, charges between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per post, and between \$20,000 and \$100,000 per campaign."

Senior marketing professional Brittany Hennessy also broke down the amount of money social media influencers can earn. "Per-post influencers can make anywhere from \$500 a post, some of them are making \$30,000 a post," said Hennessy in an interview with *Business Insider*.

Social media users can also spend several hours on dozens of platforms to help them to figure out the monetary worth of their Instagram account, based on the number of followers that they have.

It's interesting to think how social media might evolve with less focus on the number of followers and likes. Perhaps there will be more focus on creating and sharing meaningful and valuable content that educates, motivates, and entertains.

Frugal feud

› Don't look down on thrift stores/dollar stores just because they're cheap

Jessica Berget
Opinions Editor

There are so many things about thrift and dollar stores that I love. I could spend hours looking at all the ridiculous knickknacks, nightlights, and discount denim. In no other place can you find miniature disco balls, turtlenecks, and glowsticks for a lower price except for these emporiums of cheap treasure. The best part? You're never going to break the bank shopping at one of these fine establishments.

Yet sometimes when I share with people where I get my clothes, or my passion for haunting various dollar stores and Salvation Army branches, I'm met with disdain and contempt. You like buying cheap junk and second-hand clothes? You like buying clothes that other people have sweated in? You bet your sweet keister I do.

People seem to have this idea that if something is cheap or second-hand, that means it's bad quality. It's a weird stigma that comes with living under capitalism, but it's simply not true. Most low-budget stores have great quality things if you

know what to look for. In fact, I have found in my experiences shopping both first and second-hand that I get a better quantity and quality of things than I would at mainstream first-hand stores, where they sell cheaper-quality clothing for double, sometimes triple the price. There have been times where I have purchased five articles of clothing at popular retail store for about \$60, whereas at a thrift shop I can get five articles of clothing for less than \$20, and they're usually better-quality material. So, the idea that something is "better" merely because it is more expensive is silly.

Additionally, buying yourself toys at the dollar store is a great way to make you feel better because who doesn't love buying themselves dumb little presents (especially if they're only a buck)?!

It's fine if dollar stores and thrift shopping ain't your thing, but you shouldn't shame or look down on people who do enjoy them. For people with low income, thrift stores are the only ways they can shop for clothing. It's also eco-friendly since you're buying recycled clothing and better for society because the money you spend in thrift stores usually

goes to charity. Dollar stores also have a lot of household essentials for dirt cheap. Where else are you going to get a shower curtain for \$2.50?

I can't help but roll my eyes when people make a stink about the quality of a store just because it's cheap or

second-hand. However, on the other hand it makes me happy that too many people aren't into it—so I can reap all the benefits. You don't have to like thrift shops or cheap dollar store junk, but don't judge others who do, and realize that the idea of "expensive equals better quality" is a farce.



Photo by Billy Bui

What gets your goat: Doing other things while cycling

› Multitasking on your bicycle is dangerous—please stop

C J Sommerfeld
Contributor

The other day I passed a cyclist who was holding their phone adjacent to their face, speaking to it in full boisterous conversation. The visual of the FaceTiming cyclist was hilarious and absurd but I had to stop myself from laughing—what this person was doing was quite dangerous.

Yeah, yeah, face-to-face conversation trumps texting. It eliminates the fear of misusing an emoji or—gasp—not using an emoji at all... but FaceTiming while cycling, really!?

Taking part in ridiculous activities while cycling is not limited to FaceTiming but also extends to drinking hot coffee and other beverages, texting, chatting on the phone, and smoking cigarettes or other substances. The notion of this may be comical and it may provide an Instagram-worthy photo, but really you are putting yourself and others at risk for a bike accident.

In a city where bike lanes lead more places than streets allow cars to go, there are a plethora of things that can

interrupt a smooth ride. Let me outline some of these possible accident-causing perpetrators: Canadian geese crossings, potholes, rain, vegans, yogis, and pigeons who will run in circles but not actually fly away until your front bicycle tire is nearly plucking feathers out of their wing. There is a lot that can interrupt your ride, so it is important to keep your eye on the road!

Many of us are juggling multiple jobs, school, hobbies, social lives, and the list goes on. We try to jam-pack as many accomplishments into a day and in turn have mastered the art of multitasking. We are pros at taking out the garbage while brushing our teeth or shoving our face with food while scanning the required reading for a class that starts in 10 minutes. With this being the nature of our lives, it seems right to check something off the to-do list while cycling from point A to point B—but let's try to un-condition ourselves from doing so.

To all of you cycling-FaceTimers out there, you scare me. All other pedestrians and cyclists who do this, please stop. I do not want you to run over my cat, nor do I want you to ride your bike off the Seawall

into False Creek's murky waters. Enjoy your cycle whether it is a means of transport, to partake in physical activity, or just for leisure. Enjoy the skyline of mountains and stop biking with a screen in front of your face!



Photo by Paul Sableman via Flickr

Rants in your pants: Wild animals are NOT interested in meeting you!

› Don't mess around with Mother Nature

Janis McMath
Contributor

As British Columbians, we are lucky to be surrounded by so much beautiful nature—yet it also entails a lot of responsibility. Our interactions with wild animals are key in maintaining a healthy balance between our habitat and theirs. However, people seem to insist on overlooking the importance of that in favour of having a “cute” story they can brag about.

I am wowed everyday by how often people approach raccoons and skunks in Vancouver considering all the viruses they can carry—and the fact that a skunk will spray if frightened. I also see geese run people down all the time because people are in their personal space or nesting areas.

If you are going to interact with a wild animal, you should first consider the repercussions of your little meet and greet on that creature. When you interact with a wild animal you are teaching them

to be comfortable with humans, and that can be a huge problem in some cases. As reported in *Hakai Magazine*, Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island has been struggling with wolves for a long time because of people's insistence on interacting with them. Park visitors have been seen approaching wolves and attempting to take photos, when the proper reaction is to frighten the wolves off. Because people have not been creating distance between themselves and the wolves, the wolves became bolder in approaching people—and, inevitably, in attacking people or their pets.

Wolves that become too conditioned to humans must be killed, and all because some guy wanted to take a selfie. If you want to appreciate wildlife, you must inform yourself of the proper way to appreciate them. You could be hurting them with your ignorance.



“

I am wowed everyday by how often people approach raccoons and skunks in Vancouver considering all the viruses they can carry.

CREATIVE WORKS

‘Euphoria’ part three

› Short story excerpt

Brittney MacDonald
Life & Style Editor

The woman signed her name with a shaking hand, pushing the pages away as soon as she was done. She could feel the tears sting at the corner of her eyes as she fell back into a chair. It was hard for her to speak or even breathe as nurses and the doctor flitted around the bed like crumpled pieces of wrapper in the wind. They pressed buttons and turned switches; none of it made any sense to the woman who had to bear witness, but she refused to leave.

Kara held Charlie’s wrist, taking deep breaths as they neared the gate of the city. She found her body growing heavy with fear of the unknown, her steps coming harder as she stumbled a few times. Charlie kept her on her feet, walking her ever closer to the end of her dream.

Her hands gripped the rabbit’s furry elbow tightly as she took in breath with large gulps. Kara’s brows furrowed as images passed through her mind. All this time the beauty and stillness of this place had calmed her enough to forget.

The night was dark, so black it was as if someone had painted it with ink. The hail had caught the light like tiny stars as they pounded against her windshield. Blinding light poured in as she gripped the steering wheel with tight fingers. Nothing was still, nothing was calm. Her tires screeched, and the sound deafened her; she could feel the crystals of glass as the windows

shattered and burst beside her.

Kara paused, causing Charlie to double check she hadn’t grown weary enough for a rest once more. But her eyes were trained on the small gap in Euphoria’s gates.

She smiled, slipping out from the rabbit’s grasp. She patted his furred shoulder, letting her fingers enjoy the luxury of his soft pelt before she looked to his face.

“I’m not going home, am I?”

“**I’m not going home, am I?” she asked, tears stinging her eyes and blurring her vision.**

she asked, tears stinging her eyes and blurring her vision. The rabbit shrugged gently, saddened by the pain he saw in his friend’s gaze.

“Dunno,” he answered honestly. Such answers would never be given to him.

“But you don’t think so, do you?”

Her questions were hard; they made his heart ache right along with hers. He shook his head gently, a sadness overwhelming the usually boisterous being.

“Cans’ only know whats you know, my Kara.”

“Because you’re not real,” she murmured, the reality of the remark finally sinking in. The rabbit was a figment of her imagination, a friend she had played with as a child. He could know no more than she did.

“Yous lonely when come ‘ere. Yous be needin’ company. I’s come for yous.”

“Thank you,” she whispered, reaching forward and squeezing

his delicate wrist. She turned from him, aware that although he was something she conjured from the recesses of her mind, her childhood friend still could not follow.

The woman cried, the machines slowly shutting down as tears rolled down her cheeks. She was forgotten for the moment as the doctor looked to the body, waiting for the second hand to pass firmly

before he shut off the respirator. She wanted to scream the girl’s name, to wake her up; but she was so still now.

Kara felt the warmth of the gate, like rocks

left out in the sun. She turned, looking to the fixture of the odd creature she had left behind. She waved to Charlie with a smile she hoped seemed braver than she felt. The rabbit looked to her, his nose ever twitching as he nodded solemnly. She knocked on the side of the walled city, wanting to delay further so she could just sit and stare at him, but something within her protested. Some internal alarm clock rang, and Kara knew that she couldn’t remain any longer. She slipped past the gate into the city, the postern closing with a deafening boom behind her.

The woman lifted her coat to her lips, muffling the racking sobs and screams as the last of the machines flatlined. The doctor turned to the nurse at his side, looking once more to his watch as he matched it with the clock on the table. “Time of death 1:30 pm,” he recited grimly.

‘Have a nice day!’

› Poem

Caroline Ho
Assistant Editor

“Hi, what can I get for you today?”
Pure instinct; I barely hear the words I say
Too busy wondering, does my chipper voice betray
The depth of my bleak, jaded soul’s decay?

These cheery greetings—you must know they’re lies;
Can’t you see it in the dead look in my eyes
As I stare and wait for you to pick a size
Oh, and maybe add a side of fries?

Yes, I promise that this smoothie’s gluten-free,
No, I don’t know if you want Combo A or B,
I am only here to say, *so pleasantly*,
“Your total comes to \$14.53.”

Why do I still work here? No one knows.
I hope you’re not so blind as to suppose
This is the sordid service life I chose?
Only 27 minutes left ‘til close.

Maybe now you’ll hear my nihilism sound through;
Then again, I don’t expect it out of you
I know you don’t listen, no matter what I do—
‘Cause when I say, “Enjoy your meal!” you’ll say, “You too!”

“**These cheery greetings—you must know they’re lies**



- Locals refuse to be fooled by Halloween costumes
- Top three podcasts with animal hosts
- Top five reasons to hate fall ...and more!

Locals refuse to be fooled by ambitious Halloween costume ideas

› ‘Don’t fill our hearts with high expectations then just show up as a sexy ghost,’ say locals

Isabelle Orr
Contributor

“Fool me once, shame on me,” James Gleeson told reporters last Friday. “Fool me twice—I won’t let it happen again.”

Gleeson is speaking about Vancouver resident Anthony Pickering, who promises larger-than-life Halloween costumes but has failed to deliver for the last six years.

“It’s disgusting. It’s shocking, really,” said Gleeson. “Last year he said he was going to handcraft a full-body *Transformers* costume that really transformed and drove. He showed up to my party as—get this—a plain banana. Not even the Rasta hat kind.”

Pickering, 37, has promised strangers and loved ones alike many fantastical costumes, including Groot from the

popular action blockbuster *Guardians of the Galaxy*, a mermaid with a robotic, moveable tail, and a fully functional iPhone 8. Despite his claims, Pickering’s actual costumes produced on October 31 have included “black cat,” “man going to the beach,” and Waldo from *Where’s Waldo?*

“He already had the red-and-white striped shirt for Waldo,” Gleeson added. “Pretty much everybody does.”

Lily Morrison, Pickering’s neighbour, feels especially cheated by Pickering’s thoughtlessness.

“He really hypes it up every year, telling us about parts he’s ordered online,” said Morrison. “He gets my children all riled up. They love Groot! Then, on Halloween night, he shows up in the most hastily thrown together costume imaginable. One year he just walked into my Halloween party with a lampshade

on his head. Actually, that one was pretty good.”

City officials have been made aware of the issue. Councillor Elizabeth Ball held a press conference last Saturday afternoon to address reporters.

“We’re not going to get our hopes up this year,” said Ball. “It’s just not fair to us. This has been a recurring problem and there’s no sense getting all in a tizzy, no matter how absolutely dope the costume sounds.”

Those on Pickering’s side suggested that he, like many Halloween lovers, had simply ran out of time to adequately complete the costumes.

“Obviously time is not the central issue here,” Ball stated. “Pickering started telling people his plans for this year’s Mayor McCheese costume as early as November 1. That’s 364 days to get it together. Besides,

Mayor McCheese isn’t even that hard. It’s basically just the head.”

Pickering gave only a short statement to reporters, stating “Hey man, life gets in the way! You know how it is. It’s just Halloween. It’s not Christmas, for God’s sake.”

When asked about the promised Mayor McCheese costume, Pickering began trying to shut his front door. “Yeah, yeah, I ordered a bunch of parts from Japan,” he said. “Really niche stuff. It should be coming in any day now.”

Reporters then confronted Pickering with an empty Value Village premade costume bag for an adult size large “Incredible Man” found in his trash. Pickering declined to comment further.

Top three podcasts with animal hosts

› Ms. Barky to Mr. Goldy

Naomi Ambrose
Staff Writer

Animals like Ms. Barky, a golden retriever, and Mr. Goldy, the golden goldfish, are taking a break from their pet duties to host their own podcasts.

Take it from this reporter: Hearing pets share their insights about their world without worrying about their owners’ opinions is a wonderful delight. Podcasts have exploded in popularity among humans over the last few years and now it is time for our beloved furry and fishy companions to educate and entertain us with this rising medium. I am a podcast aficionado, and I’m always happy to share with the world the latest and greatest podcasts from Kingdom Animalia. Here are three animal podcasts that are worth a listen:

Ms. Barky’s *Barktown Chronicles*

Hosted by Ms. Barky, the affable golden retriever and the 2017 winner of the Royal Avenue Doglovers Club Best in Show competition, *Barktown Chronicles* is a joy for dog lovers and for Ms. Barky’s fellow canine contemporaries. In the podcast, Ms. Barky shares her experiences with her owner and the joys and challenges of being a show dog.

In a bonus episode, Ms. Barky also shares what she really thinks about *Best in Show*, *Lassie*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, and *Air Bud*. Her guests have included Benji Tenji, the feisty Bichon and the third runner-up from the 2017 Royal Avenue Doglovers

Club Best in Show competition, as well as Ms. Barky’s long-time friends the Great Dane Lady Daisy and Tocho the friendly Labrador Retriever. Of course, the musical interludes are none other than the Baha Men’s “Who Let the Dogs Out” and some other surprise choices. If you have ever wondered what it is like to be an award-winning show dog who is also a lovable four-legged golden bundle of love with a waggy tail,

then this podcast is worth the pause in your busy day.

Average running time per episode: 30 minutes.

Mr. Goldy’s *Fishy Water Days*

Even though Mr. Goldy is a newcomer to the podcast world, his podcast *Fishy Water Days* has become a surprise hit. Perhaps the success of the podcast lies with Mr. Goldy’s warped sense of humour when he shares his experiences about his life as a pet goldfish in a fish tank. The episodes would not be complete without Mr.

Goldy making a hilarious and offbeat mention of one his favorite movies:

Finding Dory.

If you are a new listener, you may question the purpose of the extensive use of the bubble sound effects. However, I believe you will eventually enjoy them. Guests have included other pet goldfishes such as Merry from Port Coquitlam, Sterry from Burnaby, and Jerry, also from Coquitlam.

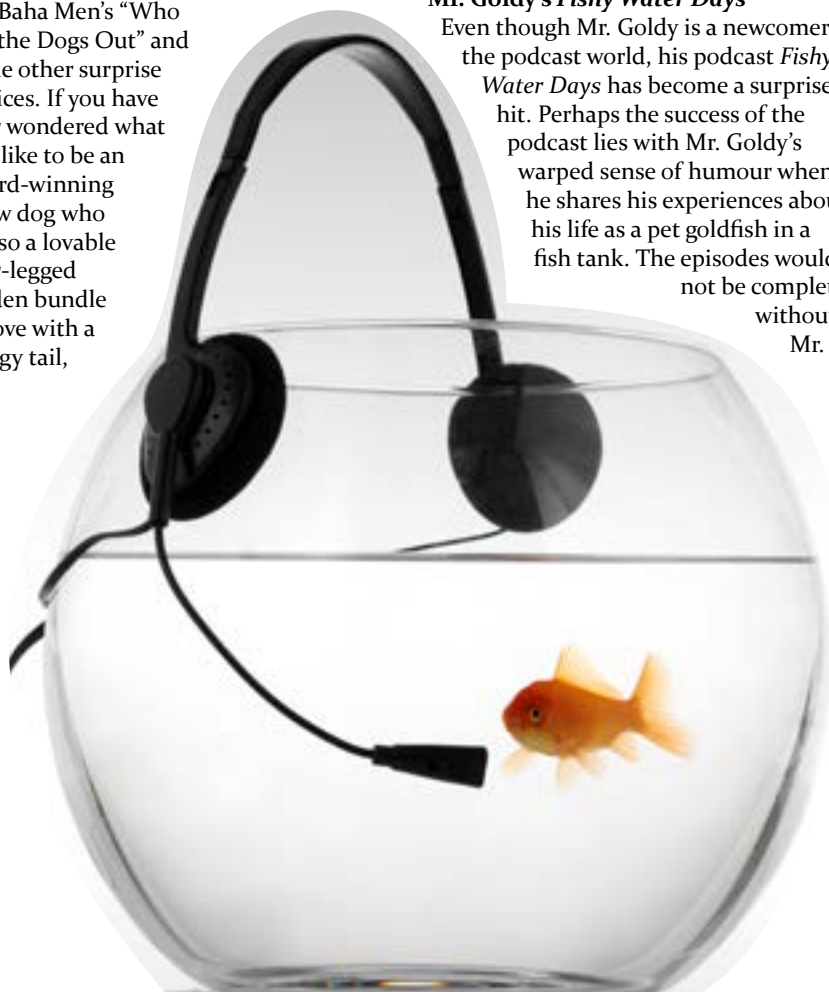
Average running time per episode: 45 minutes

Lady Friska’s *Catnips and Sips*

If you feel at ease with the silent and peaceful presence of a Birman cat, you will enjoy the ambience of Lady Friska’s podcast *Catnips and Sips*. Lady Friska and her feline guests usually talk about the misconceptions about being a cat. These misconceptions include their obsession with stretching and staring at humans.

In one of the episodes, Lady Friska addresses the rumour about her relationship with Toulouse—one of the cats from *The Aristocats*. No topic is too taboo. Risqué topics have included Lady Friska’s weird encounters with other neighbourhood cats and kittens. Lady Friska and her guests also share their opinions about their top five milk brands. Of course, no episode would be complete without hearing the sound effects of catnip being nipped and bowls of milk being sipped.

Average running time per episode: 15 minutes



Top five reasons to hate fall

› Fall hates you, so hate it back

Klara Woldenga
Entertainment Editor

Oh boy, fall: The most overrated season. People love to praise autumn, but you know better. When “fall lovers” are shocked by your fully justified hate, pull out this list to silence those leaf-crunching sheep.

Autumn leaves are garbage

Those things on the ground that you love so much? They are garbage, man. *Literal* garbage. They are things that trees no longer need and then throw to the ground with no regard for anyone else. Want to get back at the foliage? Stomp their stupid garbage right in front of them, but don't

enjoy it.

Pumpkin Spice Lattes are the spawn of the Gourd Devil

If you buy them then you are worshipping an evil god that has a hard exterior and weird seeds. Is that something you want? I didn't think so.

Scarves are things that strangle you

Sure, they look soft, but one wrong move and *BAM*—you're dead from lack of oxygen, my good friend. These things can get caught in bus doors, SkyTrain doors, or

your very own door. Do yourself a favour and burn all of your scarves, along with your friends' scarves. They might be like, “What the hell man,” or “You can't light a fire in my apartment,” but they'll thank you when they aren't dead.

The temperature is super flakey

Fall weather thinks it can do whatever it wants, and that's not cool. What's wrong with you, fall weather? Are you hot? Cold? Make up your damn mind and let me live my awful life.

Free Halloween candy is only for the children

I work hard, I occasionally do my taxes, and how does life repay me? By telling me I'm too old for the one day a year where you get free sugar. *Rude*. Show fall who's boss by stealing children's candy. Pro tip: You don't need to just do this in the fall. Sure, you're angry at the season, but there's no reason you can't just steal candy from children every season. Every day even.

Photo by Billy Bui

Vancouver citizens shocked by lack of Wednesday evening activities

› ‘This city is dead, just like us,’ lazy citizens complain

Isabelle Orr
Contributor

This past Wednesday evening, citizens of Metro Vancouver were shocked to find that there was absolutely nothing to do.

Elise Clayton, a 24-year-old waitress and self-proclaimed photographer, was the first to realize that the Wednesday evening in question held absolutely no events or activities for anyone, at all. Elise has lived in Vancouver for the past decade.

“Except when I studied abroad in Montreal,” she told reporters. “There's always so much to do there.”

Clayton and two close friends, Mindy Sinclair and Toni Valin (both 24), searched in vain for something—anything—to do. Three days earlier on Sunday morning, the trio had made a plan to “take it easy

“I moved here because there's always something to do,” the 26-year-old musician—who also resells clothes he finds in nonprofit thrift stores at a 90 percent markup—told the *Other Press*. “So, imagine my surprise when I found there was nothing to do Wednesday night. Not a single thing.”

Bugley added he had an uncle who lived off Commercial Drive who had been trying to meet up with him for the last two months, and an old college friend who wanted to “grab a drink with him whenever he was free.”

“But I don't really feel like doing either one of those things right now,” Bugley told reporters.

Around 7:45 pm Clayton and Sinclair were reminded via Facebook alert that Jolene Morrison was having an intimate

“At around 9:45 pm the group seemed resigned to their fate and were last seen swiping on Tinder with dead eyes.”

during the week,” after a particularly intense night out. Sources say this lasted until approximately Tuesday afternoon when Clayton sent “whats goin on tomo nite” in a WhatsApp group message between the three of them.

Vancouver is the eighth largest city in Canada, with hundreds of restaurants, galleries, bars, and music venues. Despite this, all three were shocked where there was nothing at all to do.

Many have moved to Vancouver due to the city's bustling allure. Charles Bugley, who recently moved here from a small town on Vancouver Island, was shocked at the lack of activities.

birthday gathering at the Emerald with her and her closest 26 friends (Toni was not invited as she once called Jolene's hand-painted tote bags “Honestly, so awful”). The gathering was swiftly shot down by Clayton.

“That's at least a 15-minute bus ride,” she said. “Plus, it's raining out.”

Elise Clayton's well-meaning mother, Maureen Clayton, popped her head in her daughter's room at around 8:14 pm. “Why don't you girls take a walk?” she said. “I hate to see you all cooped up in here like this.”

Elise Clayton and company protested that they didn't bring any good walking shoes, and besides, there was the



aforementioned rain.

Clayton's mother then mentioned that she had four free passes to the Vancouver International Film Festival, maybe they could all go together, just the girls. The younger Clayton protested that her ex had a film in the festival, and besides, she didn't want to go with her *mom*, that would be so sad.

Several bars were suggested, including some that were hosting themed trivia nights. The group was reminded that they couldn't go to *that* one because “Toni's ex was a bartender there,” and they

couldn't go to the other one because it was “rumoured that there was a dead rat in the ice machine, and that's why Toni was so sick after New Year's.” A quick Facebook search revealed a close friend had an improv show—this reporter wouldn't want to go to that, either.

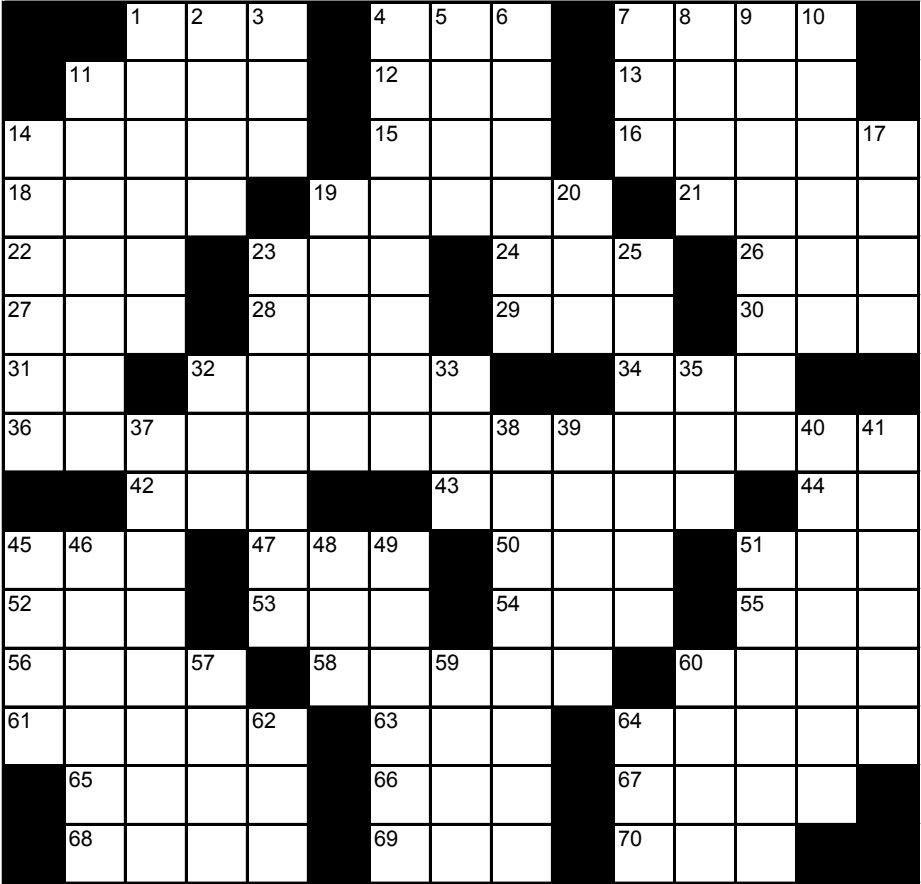
At around 9:45 pm the group seemed resigned to their fate and were last seen swiping on Tinder with dead eyes.

It should be noted that all three had laundry, dishes, and school assignments that were being severely neglected at the time of the interview.

ENTERTAINMENT

Weekly crossword: Thanksgiving edition
By **Caroline Ho**, Assistant Editor

- ACROSS**
- 1. Greek letter after Phi
 - 4. Distress signal acronym
 - 7. Lowest vocal range
 - 11. Cook the surface
 - 12. Egyptian boy king
 - 13. Frozen drink
 - 14. Common fall fruit
 - 15. Function
 - 16. Sauce over many Thanksgiving dishes
 - 18. Historical Métis leader Louis
 - 19. Following
 - 21. Water pitcher
 - 22. Genetic material (abbr.)
 - 23. Graphics file extension
 - 24. Photograph, for short
 - 26. City in Florida (abbr.)
 - 27. Consume food
 - 28. Psychic Geller
 - 29. Resort
 - 30. Main character in *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*
 - 31. Raleigh's state
 - 32. Sports stadium
 - 34. Zilch
 - 36. This year, October 8 (2 wds.)
 - 42. Middle Eastern country (abbr.)
 - 43. Brighten up
 - 44. Opposite NW
 - 45. Likely
 - 47. Tuber often candied
 - 50. Neither's partner
 - 51. Widely broadcast message (abbr.)
 - 52. Greek letter after Sigma
 - 53. Jamaican music genre
 - 54. Test out
 - 55. Not theirs
 - 56. "Is it you ___?"
 - 58. Attempt
 - 60. Comics creator Lee
 - 61. Tiny amount, e.g. of salt
 - 63. Old witch
 - 64. Male deer
 - 65. Prefecture in Japan
 - 66. Barely manage



- 67. Adjective for many diet foods
- 68. Downcast
- 69. ___ Moines, Iowa
- 70. Spanish for "gold"
- 10. Harsh
- 11. Leafy green vegetable
- 14. Devoted
- 17. Per annum (abbr.)
- 19. Buenos ___, Argentina
- 20. Tear
- 23. Centrepieces for many Thanksgiving meals
- 25. Food packaging factory
- 32. Santa ___, California
- 33. Feel poorly
- 35. Video game network
- 37. Relating to fall
- 38. Wine harvest years
- 39. Tusk material
- 40. Mitigate
- 41. Longs
- 45. Above
- 46. Preparing an apple, say
- 48. Alias abbr.
- 49. With 51-down, popular side dish, often served with 16-across
- 51. See 49-down
- 57. Light brown colour
- 59. Japanese rice wine
- 60. Agitate
- 62. Cured meat often used for sandwiches or holiday meals
- 64. ___-mo

- DOWN**
- 1. Do again
 - 2. Corridor
 - 3. Mined material
 - 4. Turkey filler, often
 - 5. Unseat
 - 6. Prepares tea
 - 7. Large
 - 8. Unit of land
 - 9. Amusement park/aquarium chain

previous solution

A	B	C	S		S	P	R	E	E		A	G	E	D
B	O	O	K		H	A	I	R	S		B	R	I	E
O	C	T	A		O	R	C	A	S		A	I	R	S
O	C	T		M	E	M	O	S			B	L	E	U
T	O	A	S	T		E	T	E	R	N	A	L		
	N	G	O	S		S	T	R	A	Y		E	M	O
	C	E	O		B	A	A		D	E		D	O	E
T	I		T	O	O	N		C	I	T	Y		Z	R
S	N	L		H	R		C	R	O		T	M	Z	
K	I	A		N	A	C	H	O		N	C	A	A	
		C	L	O	T	H	E	S		F	A	R	R	O
F	E	T	A			E	D	S	E	L		B	E	N
R	I	O	T		M	E	D	E	S		E	L	L	E
A	N	S	E		T	S	A	R	S		S	E	L	A
Y	S	E	R		V	E	R	S	O		E	D	A	M

SUDOKU

No. 406 Very Hard

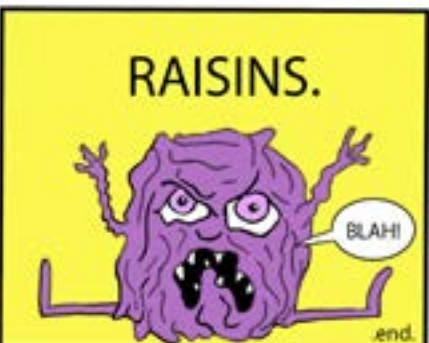
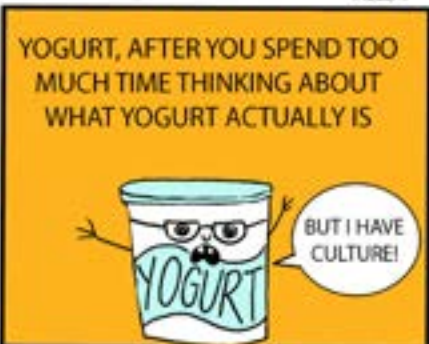
			8	2	4		5		
2				8	5	1			4
			5			6			
1								7	
			7		3		1		
	6								8
				5			4		
5				7	2	4			1
			2		1	9	8		

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Tough

4	9	8	7	2	3	1	6	5
2	6	5	1	8	4	9	7	3
7	1	3	9	6	5	4	8	2
1	5	9	3	7	8	6	2	4
8	2	7	5	4	6	3	9	1
3	4	6	2	9	1	7	5	8
9	8	4	6	1	2	5	3	7
6	3	2	4	5	7	8	1	9
5	7	1	8	3	9	2	4	6

WELCOME TO THE HALL OF UNWANTED FOOD



Comic by Nova



13th Annual

SISTERS IN SPIRIT

Vigil to Honour & Remember
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Info Table REDress Project Candlelight Vigil

COQUITLAM

Wednesday October 3
11am to 2pm
AB Atrium



NEW WEST

Thursday October 4
11am to 2pm
Concourse

DS DOUGLAS
STUDENTS
UNION BCFS LOC.6

